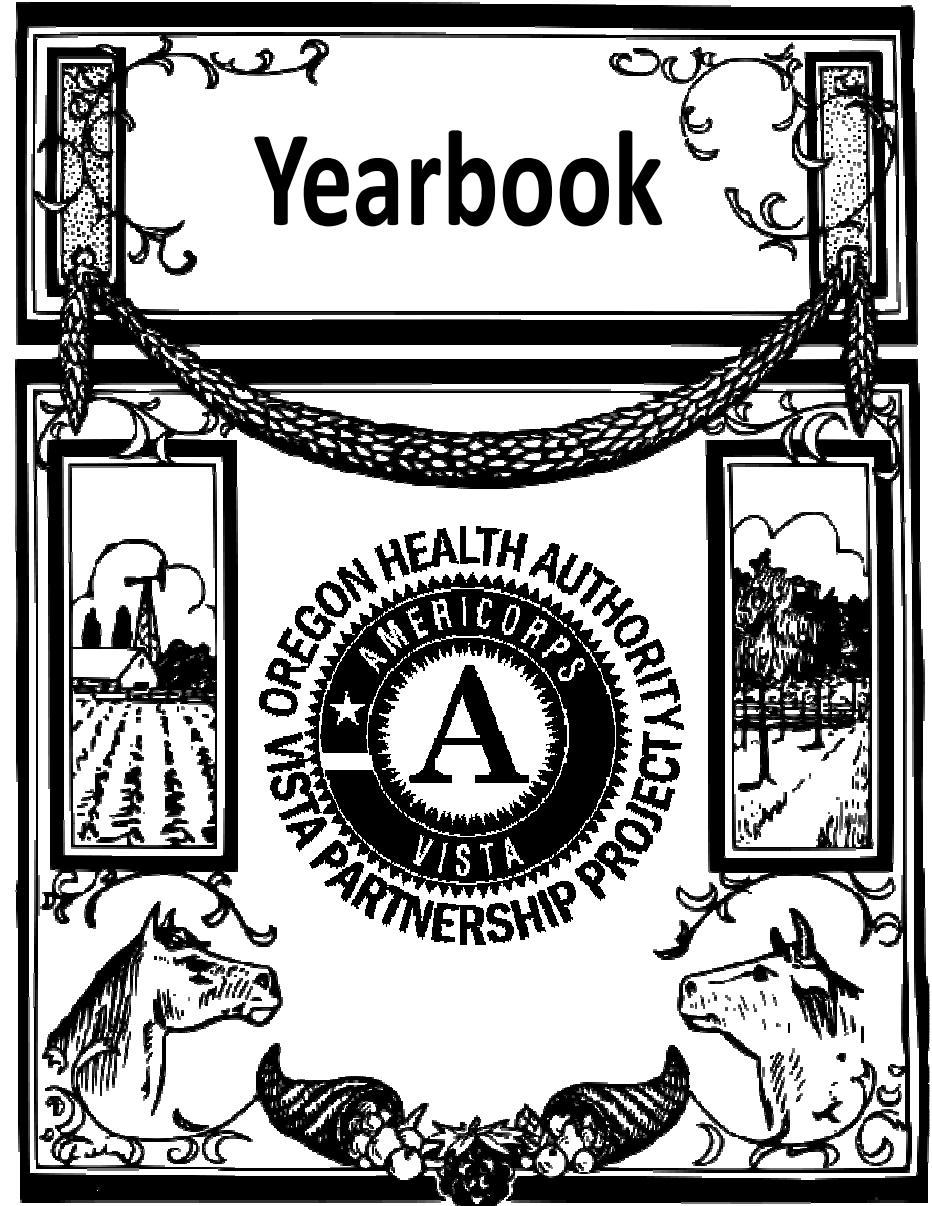


AUGUST 2012/13 TEAM



I would like to say a very special thank you to the entire August 2012-2013 VISTA team for serving this year. This is the 5th VISTA team that we have had at OHA and it has been the largest team thus far. I can confidently say that this team was also one of our strongest and the only team that we have ever had with a true 100% retention rate! Every one of our team members not only made a lasting optimistic impact in their communities, but each member impacted the team in a positive way. This year, we had team members that gave presentations, shared resources, shared a space on the floor or a couch and lead conference calls. Everyone contributed and it created a strong community of VISTAs. I want to wish every team member the very best in the future whether he or she is headed to graduate school, medical school or a career in public health. I am certain that every team member will continue to excel and continue to create positive impacts in whatever community in which they are a part. Please keep in touch with me and know that I will forever be grateful for your dedication and your service this past year!

Sincerely,
Akiko Saito





CARLY

Carly served in Prineville, OR as part of our Healthy People Program.

Reflections of Carly

Carly has been a huge asset for our community. She has been instrumental in helping to coordinate a chapter of Central Oregon Trails association for our community. She has been an integral part of our county wellness team, as well as the community coalition. Because of her dedication, she will be successful in whatever life brings her way!

Carly is one of the funniest people I have ever met. She is a rockstar VISTA and team member. She's going to do big things, I know it!

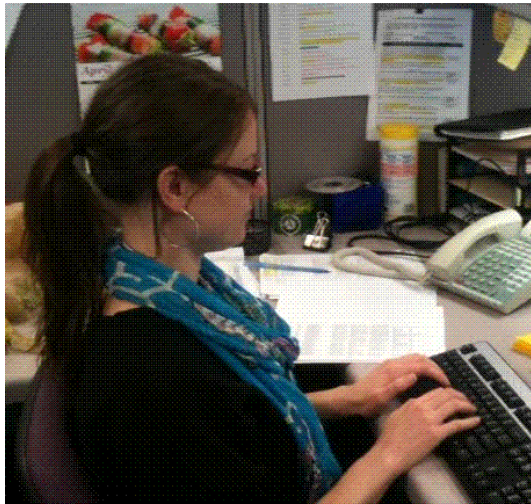
I am really grateful for the short time we spent together. You are such a fun person to be around and I know that you'll continue to do great things in the future.

You are pretty cool. Thanks for letting me pick on you all year. Thanks for being cool. "We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing" -George Bernard Shaw

I've really enjoyed the time I got to spend with you this year, especially in Atlanta! Thanks for being our unofficial tour guide—I really enjoyed it all...down to the punk rock Hawaiian band!



Carly's future plans include her new position at the Crook County Public Health Department.



DANIELLE

Danielle served at Washington County, assisting with their MRC Program.

My favorite thing about this last year was finally getting to experience working in the Public Health field first hand. Serving this year has really helped me shape my ideas and goals towards my future career!



Reflections of Danielle

Danielle, you are such a bright and ambitious person.

I have loved having you in the office, I'm going to miss having you around but I know you'll do great at PSU! Thanks for being such a great person to vent to and bounce ideas off of! You better visit, you'll need your Syun fix anyways :)

Thanks for being such a great help to me this year, both in MRC issues and life issues—I don't know what I would have done this year without your guidance!

Danielle is fantastic, funny, friendly and kind. I've really enjoyed getting to know her and know she is beginning a terrific career!

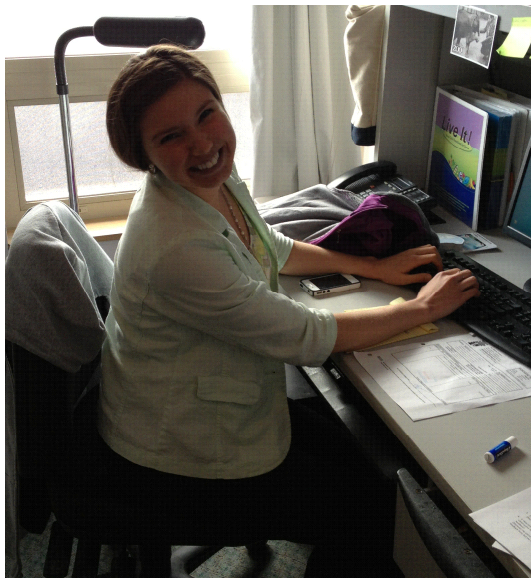
Pain heals. Chicks dig scars. Glory last forever. TOUGH MUDDER!!! "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." -Nelson Mandela

One thing Danielle wants you to know...



It was a such a pleasure serving with this team. Everyone on our team came with such unique experiences and perspectives, that I learned something from each and every one of you! It's been real!

Danielle's future plans include attending graduate school to obtain a Master's in Public Administration: Health Administration at Portland State University.



KATHERINE

Katherine served at the Tillamook Public Health Department as part of our Healthy People Program.

My favorite thing about this last year was the service project at Westwind. It was just a fun-filled weekend and a wonderful time to bond with teammates! (It also helped that the location was incredible and the food was spectacular)

Reflections of Katherine

You are probably the most cheerful person I have ever met. I love your enthusiasm of everything you do!
 "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, things aren't going to get better, their not." -Dr. Seuss

I so enjoyed your smile and fun-loving personality throughout this past year. Wishing you nothing but the best in life after VISTA!

Katherine has been was outstanding addition to Tillamook County Health Department's work to create a healthier Tillamook County in FY 2012-2013. The Health Dept. team could go on about specifics, such as her working with youth on Kick Butts, helping advance worksite wellness, and her day-to-day collaboration with the Administrator on preparing for agency accreditation, but suffice it to say she brought good spirits, enthusiasm, attention to detail, and a can do attitude to her development work...Katherine, we wish you the best and have confidence you will serve people and our country well. Best!

The road trip to Bend with your awesome mix cds and your bag o' cookies! You definitely made it the most fun car ride of the year! Your energy is so great and so infectious and I will definitely miss it.

Always smiling and so positive .

One thing Katherine wants you to know...

I would like my fellow VISTAs to know how amazing they all are! I adore each of them for a million different reasons and can't imagine surviving this year without them. You all rock!

Katherine's future plans include moving back to her hometown of Seattle, Washington.



ANNE

Anne served two years at Lane County, working on accreditation

I had a great time getting to know you this year. You were a great role model for all the people joining the team. "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Harold McAlindon

Anne ~ I've really enjoyed whenever our paths have crossed. Good luck in NY!!!

Anne is such a kind, warm, intelligent person and I'm so glad to have gotten to know her. She's going to go on to do amazing things!

Best of luck in your studies. New York City will be quite the change of scenery! I admire all of your hard work and have enjoyed working with you.

Anne has been a delight working with us for the past two years. She has learned a lot about public health and did great work on the CHA, CHIP and setting us up for the domain work for accreditation.



Anne's future plans include moving to NYC this fall to begin her Master's in Public Health program at Columbia University.



JESSICA

Jessica is serving with Curry County to help with their accreditation.

My favorite thing about this last year was how our team was more than a team, we were friends.

Reflections of Jessica

We had some awesome times. We got to drive through a TREE together!! Enjoy your 2nd year! "Smile, breathe, and go slowly." -Thich Nhat Hanh

Thanks for all the fun adventures this year. I hope your adventures continue for year two!

I'm going to miss her hugs.

I have really enjoyed the opportunities we've had to get to know each other this year. You are so sweet and easy to talk with. Wishing you the best during your second year as a VISTA!

Jessica is so kind and a joy to have on the team. I am really going to miss her constant optimism and enthusiasm. Best of luck!



One thing Jessica wants you to know...

You will achieve your destination with your own will. Everyone on our team is so talented and determined. I am sure they will be successful and their success will motivate others.

Jessica's future plans include serving another year at Curry County.



HALEIGH

Haleigh's served in Linn County, helping with both accreditation and their MRC unit.

My favorite thing has been getting to share a lot of really great and challenging experiences with some really great teammates. This year has been a great personal and professional development experience for me.

Reflections of Haleigh

Thanks for all of your work and input on the Accreditation Prezzi! I really enjoyed working with you. You're going to do such a great job with accreditation at Yamhill!

I have a feeling I haven't see the last of you! You have been a great friend, and I have truly enjoyed working with you. "The journey is the reward." -Chinese Proverb

Haleigh is incredibly friendly and outgoing. She is so kind to everyone and can make anyone smile. I'm so thankful to have met her and hope she has the best wedding ever!



Haleigh's been a great person to bounce ideas off of and I've thoroughly enjoyed working with her over this past year. I know she's going to do great things for public health in the years to come!

Between MRC, accreditation, and OSU knowledge, you've been such a helpful resource! I've really enjoyed spending time with you this year, from our "hippie" adventures in Virginia, to the ever-enthralling HPP meetings. I'm sure I'll see you around, with us switching locations—I'm so excited for you!

One thing Haleigh wants you to know...

I am happy that we were able to serve together this past year and I wish you all the best of luck in your next chapters!

Haleigh's future plans include starting her new job as Management Analyst—Health Educator at Yamhill County and getting married this September.



LIBBIE

Libbie served in Benton County, assisting with accreditation

My favorite thing about my year as a VISTA is that I could not have asked for a better way to get to know Oregon, Benton County and Corvallis. Besides learning to revel in the natural beauty and independent and self-sustaining mindset of Oregonians; it was a joy, a comfort and inspiring to meet so many wonderful people who believe that service and collective action can make a difference in improving that quality of life in our communities.

Reflections of Libbie

I really enjoyed working so closely with you on the Accreditation Prezi's! Thanks for coordinating all of that, you were an awesome lead! Good luck in grad school, I think you'll be a great teacher!

Libbie is a funny, friendly, and overall fantastic team member. I've really enjoyed spending time with her at trainings and am so excited for her to be a teacher! Congrats with grad school and the engagement!

Libbie is amazing. She is always willing to help in any way which was so comforting when I first started my service and was still learning the ropes. She is such an interesting person and I will be sad to see her go.

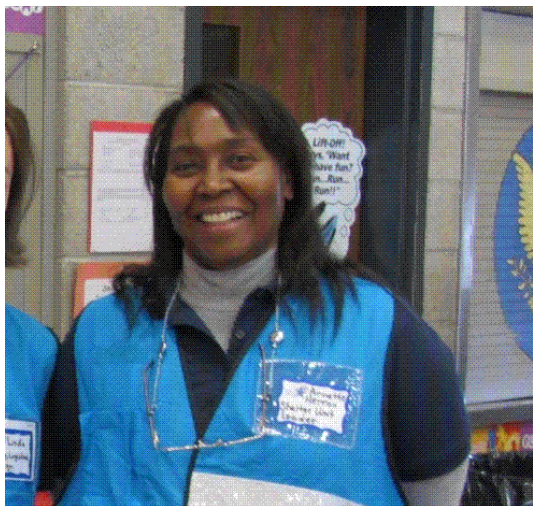
Thank you for hosting me in Corvallis time and again. You have been a great teammate and an awesome friend. "Curiosity is one of the greatest secrets of happiness. - Bryant H. McGil

You are such a leader and I'm so excited to see what you accomplish in the future.

One thing Libbie would like you to know...

I would like my fellow VISTAs to know that Delaware is the flattest state in the USA and the second smallest, but it is the first!...Just kidding, what I mean is that this country has a plethora of diversity in landscape, people and mentality and I have often felt that I cannot relate to the vast majority of it. But my year of service gave me my first pangs of patriotism, and has helped me to realize some reasons why I am proud to be an American (and Delawarian, Oregon transplant).

Libbie's future plans include attending Willamette University to obtain a MA in Teaching.



ANNETTE

Annette is serving in Jackson County, assisting with their MRC unit.

It's hard for me to choose a favorite thing. I enjoyed Ma-neucha, the Canada trip, Camp Westwind, the Corvallis conference, and the National Disaster conference last November.



Reflections of Annette

I had a great time spending time with you at conferences. I have enjoyed getting to know you. "Every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home." -Matsuo Basho

Although we only saw each other a few times over the last year, I have no doubt that the efforts and work you've contributed to Jackson County have been priceless. Thank you for your service!



Annette is so kind and warm and was always so fun to have at team meetings. I will miss her loving presence and wish her the best in the future!

Jackson County is so lucky to have you for another year! I admire your work ethic and commitment to serve. Thanks for all the help you've given me on so many projects.

Annette is so passionate about what she believes in, which is a great thing .

One thing Annette wants you to know...

One thing I like my fellow VISTAs to know is that whenever they get a chance to dance; DANCE!!! I hope you dance!

Annette's future plans include serving another year at Jackson County.



CALLY

Cally served with the Multnomah County Public Health Department, working on accreditation

Serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA over this last year has been a truly rewarding experience for me as I have not only been able to contribute to Multnomah County Health Department's efforts to achieve Public Health Accreditation, but I have also really observed my own personal growth. Every person and project that I have encountered throughout this year of service has taught me something, and I know the knowledge that I now have will serve me throughout the rest of my life. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity and for the connections that I have been able to make as a result.*

Reflections of Cally

You are amazingly sweet, and your character brings out the best in the people around you. Use that to help change the world! "Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow." -Albert Einstein

Working so closely with you on regional projects has been so great. You are so talented and I know you'll do awesome in grad school and afterwards! When you need a break from grad school and wedding planning, let's explore happy hours :)

Cally is a wonderful listener and warm team member and I've really enjoyed the time I've spent with her at trainings. She has a great career ahead of her. Congratulations with the engagement!

It is a delight to work with Cally. She is resourceful, responsible and enthusiastic about the work. She has demonstrated advanced skill in creating visual displays of complex ideas and information.



One thing Cally wants you to know...

I have a deep appreciation for the service that AmeriCorps VISTAs in this program have contributed to the state of Oregon. I think we've all grown from this experience and I so appreciate the spirit of this team and the ease of our working relationships.*

Cally's future plans include pursuing her MPH at Portland State University and planning her upcoming wedding.



JENN

Jenn served at Washington County, helping with accreditation.

My favorite part about the past year has been being part of such a great team and working alongside other people interested in public health. I consider many of you good friends now and we didn't know each other a year ago! (Cheesy, I know, but true :))

Reflections of Jenn

There is no easy way to boil our year down to a couple of sentences but... all I can say is, who would've known that my randomly assigned roommate at PSO would turn into such a good friend! Thanks for all of your support this year.

I enjoyed meeting you on trips, you are a sweetheart.

Jenn is such a smiley, friendly, funny, awesome person. I'm so happy to have met her and know she has a fabulous future ahead of her :)

Throughout the last year, Jenn and I have worked closely on several projects. There is really never a dull moment for me when working with Jenn. She is exceptionally fun, easy to work with, and truly a joy to be around. Wishing Jenn all the best in her next year!

I'll be seeing you. Travel, have fun, and stay awesome! "He who deliberates fully before taking a step will spend his entire life on one leg." -Chinese Proverb



One thing Jenn wants you to know...

I've had a lot of fun getting to know everyone and I can't wait to hear about all of the great things everyone does in this world! Thanks for being such a great support system throughout the year. I'll be in Portland, keep in touch!

Jinn's future plans include staying on at Washington County as part of the Community Transformation Grant and researching graduate schools for her MPH.



MARISSA

Marissa served in Yamhill County, doing both accreditation and MRC.

My favorite thing about my VISTA year has been all of the opportunities I have had to learn new things and make connections with people that will help me later in life.



Reflections of Marissa

Marissa has been a wonderful person to work alongside throughout the last four months; she is always willing to help out and give feedback on any projects. Marissa remember that you only YOLO once!!

It's been a real pleasure getting to know you over the last year. I've appreciated your sense of humor, friendly personality, as well as your attention to detail in your work. Wishing you the best for all that's yet to come

You are always smiling! Keep it up! I expect to see great things from you when you finish at OSU. "Inspiring hope in a cynical world might be the most radical things you can possibly do." -Jacqueline Novogratz

Marissa is incredibly friendly and has such a wonderful sense of humor! She is an awesome team member and I wish her the best of luck in the future!

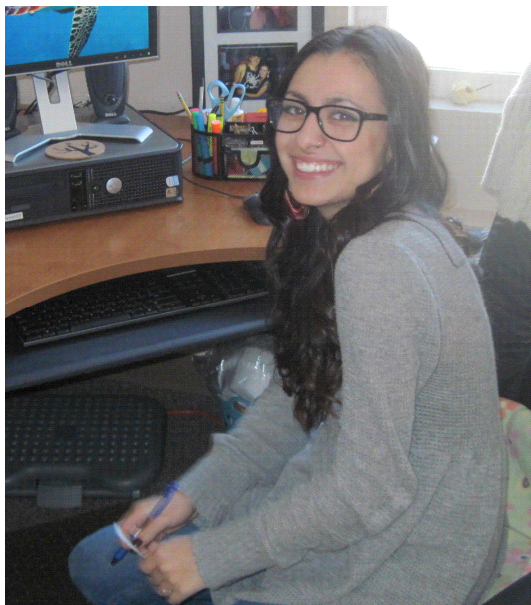
Thanks for always being so helpful when I had wacky accreditation questions! You're going to do so great in grad school and I hope you love OSU! I know I'll see you in Portland and/or Corvallis :)



One thing Marissa wants you to know...

"An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great. So just focus, and keep aiming."

Marissa's future plans include attending Oregon State University to pursue her MPH.



ANDREA

Andrea served at North Central , helping with their MRC unit.

Being able to share a service year along side fellow VISTAS in the area with similar experiences and how I grew as an individual in a field of work I hope to pursue after my service year.

Reflections of Drea

I've had a lot of fun with you this year—you're always making me laugh! Keep in touch, and if not, I'll see you at a Blazer game!

I'm super excited you'll be in Portland this year, can't wait to see you at a Blazer's game! I'll always remember playing Disney Princess UNO with you at Menucha and corn dogs at Otis Cafe!

Your love of life is refreshing. I always enjoy being around you and you never fail to make me laugh. I'll make sure to tune into some Blazer's games next season and look for you. Hmm... I better get a TV... "If we look at the world with a love of life, the world will reveal its beauty to us." - Daisaku Ikeda

Drea has the ability to include everyone and bring a smile to anyone's face! She's going to be a great Blazer dancer and has a bright future ahead of her!

I've really enjoyed getting to know Drea over the last year and am inspired by her ability to incorporate her skills and passions for dance into her service project. I wish her all the best as she continues to pursue her passions for dance with the Portland Trail Blazers! And, oh yeah, go Ducks! :)



One thing Drea would like you to know...

I would like my fellow VISTAs to know I enjoyed my year working with them all and I'm glad I was able to meet them through this career venture. Hoping to keep in touch with them after my service year is over and to see them at a Blazer game or two!

Andrea's future plans include finding a job working with children to improve fitness, and being the Portland's greatest Blazer's dancer!



NATASHA

Natasha served in Bend, OR and Portland, OR, working on a special project

My favorite thing (s) about this last year was moving to Oregon and meeting some amazing people and serving on an awesome team.

Reflections of Natasha

You are my forever dear friend and colleague. Thank you for your excellent work and good spirit. Wishes for great success in your pathway forward.

Thanks for all of the fun shenanigans in Yachats, Bend, Atlanta, and elsewhere!

You are crazy fun! ... or is it crazy, fun... either way, I had a great time spending time with you this year! "Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised." -Denis Waitley

Natasha brings joy to everyone around her. She is a goofball and also incredibly hardworking. Best of luck!

I've had fun getting to know you this past year and I'm excited that you'll be sticking around Portland!



One thing Natasha wants you to know...

I would like my fellow VISTA's to know that each one of them has changed my life in one way or another and I'm thankful for that

Natasha's future plans include looking for positions in public health education, community health or volunteer coordination.



ANTHONY

Anthony served with Lincoln, OR, helping with their Vulnerable Populations Emergency Preparedness

Anthony said his favorite part of the last year was: *Working with a strongly connected, cohesive group. Despite the distance between members, everybody does a good job of sharing their work, knowledge, and experiences.*

Reflections of Anthony

Anthony always had a positive attitude and great outlook on the projects he was working on. He was very willing to tackle any project and was committed to the reason why he was here this year.

Anthony is one of the friendliest, if not the friendliest, people I have ever met. He has an ability to connect and talk with anyone and everyone and has a wonderful sense of humor. Best of luck saving the world!

Anthony's enthusiasm and positive outlook on life was a real joy to be around. His job performance on the project we worked on together was exceptional, and very much appreciated.

Thanks for being the mini-van driving dad this year. It has been really great getting to know you on all those long trips and during all of the HPP meetings. Have a great time and best of luck in NOLA!

I love the passion that you have for your field, it will make grad school that much more awesome! Enjoy New Orleans!

One thing Anthony wants you to know...

It has truly been an honor to work with all of you, and I look forward to seeing what everybody accomplishes in the future.



Anthony's future plans include attending graduate school at Tulane University to pursue an M.S. in Disaster Resilience Leadership.



JULIE

Julie served at the Office of Equity & Inclusion, working on a special project.

Julie said her favorite thing about last year was: *The people: staff at OEI and VISTA teammates.*

Reflections of Julie

Julie has been doing some amazing work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion. I know this experience will serve her, and others, well as she pursues Medical School this fall.

Julie is such a warm and generous team member. I am so happy to have gotten to know her and share some hilarious moments. I can't wait to see some fancy publication by Dr. Wu in the future!

After any interaction with you I always had a smile on my face. I know you will be a great doctor because you're super smart, but you listen to what others have to say.



I'll always remember tearing down that rock climbing wall with you at Westwind and getting bat poop in our hair. Good luck with medical school! Whenever I'm in SF I'll be sure to get in touch!

You've been a great friend this year. Your patience (that I tested on a normal basis) and friendly attitude will get you far. "People who

think they are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." -Steve Jobs

One thing Julie wants you to know...

Thank you so much for being incredible people to become friends with and learn from! Please come visit me in San Francisco-- I'll have plenty of floor space and potential futon space

Julie's future plans include attending UCSF Medical School.



STEVE

Steve served in Portland, OR on state-wide MRC efforts.

My favorite thing about the past 4 months has been getting to know all the other VISTAs in the program. It was immediately apparent that everyone was ambitious, wanted to make an impact, and valued their work. I enjoyed working with everyone!

Reflections of Steve

It's been really great getting to know you these past few months. Thanks so much for keeping me entertained during the BDLS class and thanks for all your help with SERV-OR!

I'm glad you joined our team! It's always entertaining chatting with you and you never fail to make everyone laugh!

Stephen is absolutely delightful. I'm so glad he was able to join our team and hope the best for him!

Stephen is absolutely hilarious. So friendly and such an interesting person.

Das ist gut, ja!



One thing Steve would like you to know...

I wish everyone the best of luck in their next adventures!

Steve's future plans include taking graduate-level Micro/Molecular Biology courses at PSU while looking into PhD programs across the country.



JOEY

Joey served at the PSOB as VISTA Leader

My favorite part of this year would have to be all the professional development opportunities. I really enjoyed being able to attend a wide assortment of trainings and conferences over the year. Also, being able to learn from Akiko has been one of the most rewarding and influential aspects of my position. I am so thankful to have been selected as the leader for the 2012-2013 OHA/VISTA Partnership Program team and the fact that all of our team members were so easy to work with.

Reflections of Joey

Thanks for everything! Anytime I see a clown car I'll remember that trip to Bend. I hope we hang out in Portland, maybe a wine tasting excursion?!

Although I have only known Joey for a short while, he always gave off such a positive, enthusiastic presence and I always appreciated that!



Joey ~ Thanks for leading our VISTA team for the last year and good luck to you on all your future endeavors!

Joey is a super person and great team leader. He is a great listener and a hard worker. Thanks for being awesome!

A good leader and you can talk to him about anything .

Joey's future plans include staying in the Portland area and pursuing a career in refugee advocacy.